

7-1-03

Mr. Cioffi,

I am a tart cherry grower in NW Michigan with an average production of 800,000 pounds and 0 in 2002.

It is my contention that the CIAB vote of 15% diversion was predetermined by those board members who are also CherrCo members and supporters. Although technically correct in their motions, I believe it was privately determined ahead of time and it follows that prices were also set quickly by CherrCo based on these elements.

The net result is a quick downward pressure of prices for the grower from a discussed 50 cents per pound to 37 cents per pound within one week. This results in \$50-60,000 less for our farm this year.

This smaller national crop was marketable at a better return to growers. I believe this is a disservice to the growers especially after the 2002 disaster. Compromise was not on their agenda.

Sincerely,  
Tom Cooper, Rocky Top Farms  
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